THE FLIGHT OF A SERF

Wolves In Front and a Pursuing Master In Rear

By EDGAR L. THOMPSON

During the first half of the nineteenth century a Russian gentleman, Count Koronief, living in Finland, owned a beautiful serf girl named Sonia. Adjoining the Koronief estate lived a small farmer named Orloff. Orloff's son Peter and Sonia were wont to play together as children and when they grew to manhood and womanhood became lovers. Unfortunately for them while Peter was a free man Sonia was a serf.

Now, the count was a firm supporter of the government, while even at that early date there were evidences of discontent among the people. The murmurings were heard mostly among the higher classes, for the serfs were too ignorant, too degraded, too used to consider their master, the czar, a divine being, to protest against anything that emanated from him. Young Orloff was far in advance of the small farmer class, to which he belonged, supporting the few nobles and many intellectual commoners who desired to see the autocracy of the government curbed and the lower classes educated.

When, therefore, Orloff senior offered to buy Sonia and give her to his son to wife the count refused to sell her. "No one belonging to my estate," he said, "shall pass under the influence of these new notions which are intended to interfere with the will of the emperor. In Russia we have always needed and always had a single power to rule. Certain people are now beginning an agitation which if persisted in will educate the lower classes. They will become discontented with their lot, and we shall have anarchy."

When the farmer gave the count's answer to his son, advising him to think no more of Sonia, a rebellious fire flared in the young man's breast. He dare not tell Sonia, for she would undoubtedly feel that the hope of happiness which had been born to her had been quenched, since she would never dream of disputing her master's will. The law gave her to him as a serf, and if she rebelled the law would punish her. Indeed, a marriage without the count's consent was impracticable. If her lover attempted to defy the count he would be sent to Siberia. Sonia's master told her that the proposition had been made, that he had declined it, and there was an end of the matter.

Peter brooded over the matter till he was ready to take any risk to possess Sonia. He had expected to work his father's farm after his father had passed away, as each son had succeeded his father from time immemorial. With Sonia for his wife he would have been content to do so. If he should possess her he must do so by running away with her, and if caught the consequences would be terrible, not only for him, but for her. But love will take any risk. Peter had heard of America. There the people were their own rulers. If he could only get Sonia out of Russia and take her to America they could be united. But any attempt to carry her away would be fraught with great danger, and there was every chance of failure. The only chance for such an attempt to succeed would be by bribery, always a common method of accomplishing objects in Russia, but Peter, so long as his father lived, could not raise much money. The old man was not minded to cripple himself by raising funds to carry out any wild scheme of his son's to satisfy a whim. Besides, sons and daughters in Russia were not supposed to choose mates; they were provided by their parents.

Peter secretly saved what money he could, knowing that even if he succeeded in getting Sonia out of Russia he could not take her to America without means. In one way and another he got together enough to pay a passage. Then he began to weigh the different plans he had been forming for kidnaping his love. He dared not trust her with any intention of what he had in mind, fearing that even a knowledge of it would cause her unwittingly to betray it. Then, too, he had no assurance that she would consent to take a risk fraught with such frightful consequences to her and himself in case of failure.

The plan he chose embodied its formation, its execution and its responsibility solely in himself. No other was to share the secret with him, not even Sonia. It was to kidnap the girl and carry her around the gulf of Bothnia into Sweden. The country through which they must pass was cold and desolate. The only thing that rendered the scheme at all feasible was that the estate from which they would start was only a hundred miles from the Swedish border. But to pass over this distance without being caught and returned was a dangerous undertaking. Peter had enough money to hire a two horse sleigh, including the necessary relays, besides sufficient to take him to a sailing point for America. His arrangements were perfected in September, and, with loverlike impatience, instead of being satisfied to wait till the next spring, he planned to carry out his attempt before the winter set in.

Knowing Sonia's habits and that she had an afternoon to herself once a week, when she would usually visit a friend, he watched for her on one of these holidays, driving back and forth in his sleigh. He was fortunate enough to meet her and asked her to go for a ride with him. Fearing that if seen with him she would be punished, she demurred, but he finally persuaded her, and when well on their way he told her that they would not stop of their own accord till they reached America. She nerved herself to the risk, and from that moment Peter pushed forward. Unfortunately the pair were seen by a member of the count's family, who as soon as possible gave information that they were driving rapidly westward. As soon as horses could be harnessed the count himself started in pursuit.

Peter had provided everything that he and Sonia would be likely to need. In the sleigh were warm fur rugs, provisions, a bottle of liquor and an armament of rifles and pistols. The latter were to be used in case the escape was dependent upon resistance, for Peter argued that to be caught meant Siberia for him and possibly for Sonia, and the punishment could not be worse if he killed a dozen people. Should the pursuers come to close quarters he would fire at them, trusting to disable the horses or those attempting to overhaul him.

The autumn had set in, and already there was plenty of snow, well beaten for easy going. The pursuing party lost time by taking a wrong road and having to retrace their steps. It was therefore near midnight before they came into the vicinity of the fugitives. The moment Peter heard the sound of bells behind him ringing in gallop tune he heard the bark of a single wolf ahead, then another and another till a whole pack were howling.

Sonia and he turned and looked at each other, Sonia with despair. He well knew that there was now a double danger. If they drove on they would be eaten by the wolves. Behind them were capture, separation and Siberia. Peter, rising to the occasion, gave the reins to Sonia and took up such arms from the bottom of the sleigh as he might have occasion to use. He had intended them for human pursuers. Now he might need them for both man and wolves.

The lovers heard the jingling behind slacken. Evidently the barking had been heard by the pursuers. But it was not long before the bells again bespoke a gallop.

"It's the count," said Peter. "I know him well. He would face certain death rather than forego an act of tyranny."

As they drew nearer the wolves the barking not only grew louder, but came from more throats. The moon was near the full and lit the dark bodies of the animals coming to meet them. The horses, frightened, started to turn, but Peter gave them the whip, and they continued in their course. Handing the whip to Sonia, he seized a rifle, and as they shot through a dozen wolves one making a lodgment on the sleigh was driven off with the iron barrel brought down on its head. The next instant another springing at Sonia received a bullet in its breast between its fore legs and dropped dead. This gave the pack two carcasses to fight over and the fugitives a brief respite.

Meanwhile the sounds of the approaching party behind them grew nearer. Peter attributed the count's pressing on, knowing that he was chasing a pack of wolves which would turn upon his party and devour them, to his mad desire to get possession of Sonia and send him and probably her to Siberia. In this he did the man injustice. Doubtless if he caught them he would take his revenge, but he was a brave man and ready to risk his own life to save that of others.

As soon as the wolves had devoured the two of their number that had been killed they came on again. It seemed to the fugitives that coals of fire were pursuing them, the eyes of the beasts shining out brightly. Again they overtook the lovers, and again Peter fired into the pack. But by this time, while the double danger added to his desperation, his nerves were not so steady as at first. He fired three shots before he dropped a wolf. Then he killed two more.

Sonia laid on the whip, though it was not necessary, and the lovers drew away, while behind them they could hear their pursuers approaching the wolves. Then there was a cracking of rifles, a yelping of wounded animals, the cry of a horse, and the sound of bells ceased.

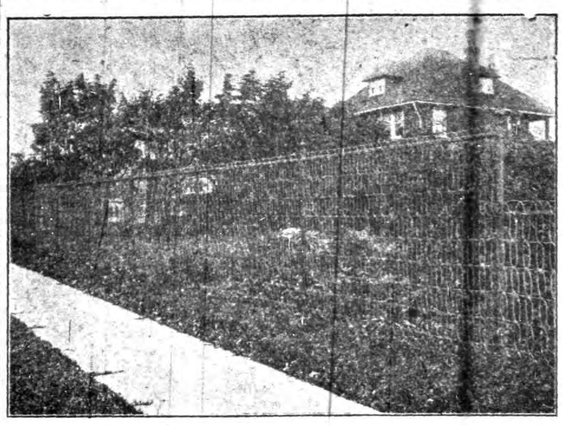
"The brutes have saved us," said Peter exultingly. "They have downed a horse."

The fugitives sped on, hearing again and again the cracking of a rifle till at last either the firing ceased or passed out of hearing.

The count and two of his servants had not been as fortunate as those they followed. By the time they reached the pack the number of wolves had doubled. They fought well, but one of the wolves sprang at a horse's throat and disabled him. Overwhelmed, the three men, one after another, succumbed.

And so it was that a man who was trying to recover a fugitive serf lost his life and carried down with him the lives of two other persons.

The lovers, being freed from their pursuers, proceeded with deliberation. The next evening they reached the Swedish line, at the head of the gulf of Bothnia, where they left their conveyance at an unfrequented spot, on the east side of the Tornea river, and, crossing, found themselves in Sweden. From there they made their way to Christiania and from thence to America. Setting out toward the west, they at last reached the new territory, which is now the state of North Dakota, where they found many of their countrymen and became prosperous farmers and Peter one of the principal men in that region.



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Postal Brings Representative.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Assessment have filed with the Town Clerk their official final reports, maps and assessments of the whole costs and expenses in the matter of the following improvements, and the same are now open to the inspection of those in interest:

Laying out, opening, straightening, extending and widening of James street.

Notice is also given that the Bloomfield Town Council at a regular meeting held February 5th, 1912, did fix and determine Monday evening, March 4th, 1912, at eight o'clock, at the Bloomfield Council Chamber, National Bank Building, Bloomfield, as the time and place when and where said Council will meet to consider any objections which may be filed in writing to the aforesaid reports, maps and assessments.

By order of the Town Council.

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

ESSEX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT—IN the matter of the report of the Commissioners of Adjustment of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex, Number Five.

By virtue of an order made by the Essex County Circuit Court on the seventeenth day of February, nineteen hundred and twelve, in the above matter, I shall expose for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder, in fee simple, on Wednesday, the third day of April, nineteen hundred and twelve, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, at the Council Chamber in the Bloomfield National Bank Building, at Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, the following tracts of land and premises:

MAP 9, BLOCK S, LOT 197.
MAP 9, BLOCK U, LOT 1.
MAP 9, BLOCK P, LOT 10.

The said lands will be sold for not less than the amount of tax, assessment, cost, interest and disbursements shown to be due at the date of the sale. The said lands will be sold subject to all taxes and assessments levied subsequent to the taxes and assessments for which they are sold. The sale is under an Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, entitled: "An Act concerning the settlement and collection of arrearages of unpaid taxes, assessments and water rates or water rents in towns, townships, boroughs and other municipalities, except cities of this State, and imposing and levying a tax, assessment and lien in lieu and instead of such arrearages, and to enforce the payment thereof and to provide for the sale of lands subject to future taxation and assessment." Approved May 18th, 1898, and the supplements and amendments thereto.

Dated March 1, 1912.

FRANK FOSTER,
Town Collector and Collector of Taxes for Bloomfield.

CHARLES H. HALFPENNY,
Attorney for Commissioners of Adjustment.

3-2-5t

NOTICE.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, held on the 19th day of February, 1912:

Whereas, it is in the interest of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that a sanitary sewer be constructed in Cottage place, hereinafter more particularly described.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that it is in the interest of said town to have a sanitary sewer constructed in Cottage place in said Town of Bloomfield.

Beginning at the sanitary sewer in Spring street, thence through Cottage place in an easterly direction three hundred and thirty (330) feet, more or less, and ending there.

Notice is hereby given that objections in writing to the above resolution or to the said proposed improvement shall be filed with the Town Clerk on or before Monday, March 18, 1912, on which date the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield will meet at 8 o'clock P. M. in the Council Chamber, National Bank Building, Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, to consider any such objections that may be filed as aforesaid.

By order of the Town Council.

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

January 8, 1912.

ESTATE OF AUGUSTA SWOLinsky, deceased.

Pursuant to the order of ISAAC SHOENTHAL, Surrogate of the County of Essex, this day made, on the application of the undersigned, executrix of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit to the subscriber under oath or affirmation, their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased, within nine months from this date, or they will be forever barred from prosecuting or recovering the same against the subscriber.

GRETCHEN S. FRENOT.

Pilch & Pilch, Proctors.

September 7, 1911.

ESTATE OF GEORGE PETERson, Deceased.

Pursuant to the order of ISAAC SHOENTHAL, Surrogate of the County of Essex, this day made, on the application of the undersigned, executrix of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit to the subscriber, under oath or affirmation, their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased, within nine months from this date, or they will be forever barred from prosecuting or recovering the same against the subscriber.

ANNA M. PETERSON,

Pilch & Pilch, Proctors

Lackawanna Railroad SPECIAL Lackawanna Railroad

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Special attention given to Decorating. Greenhouses, Glen Ridge.

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Bloomfield Decorating Company.

Rooms Decorated for $4 00 Upward.

All orders promptly attended to.

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38 MYRTLE AVENUE.

Bloomfield, N. J.

Burglar and Fire Proof Vaults

We have complete facilities for the store of valuables. Safety Boxes a $4.00 per annum and upwards. The Bloomfield National Bank.—Adv.

NOTICE.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, held on the 4th day of March, 1912:

Whereas, it is in the interest of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that a concrete sidewalk be constructed on both sides of Lake street, its entire length, in said Town of Bloomfield, hereinafter more particularly described.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that it is in the interest of said town to have a concrete sidewalk constructed on both sides of Lake street, its entire length, in said Town of Bloomfield.

Beginning at the easternly curb line of Roosevelt avenue, thence in a southwesterly direction along Lake street eleven hundred and seventy-five (1175) feet, more or less, to the rear line of lots fronting on Peloubet street and ending there.

The above described concrete sidewalk to be constructed on both sides of Lake street.

Notice is hereby given that objections in writing to the above resolution or to the said proposed improvement shall be filed with the Town Clerk on or before Monday, April 1, 1912, on which date the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield will meet at 8 o'clock P. M. in the Council Chamber, National Bank Building, Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, to consider any such objections that may be filed as aforesaid.

By order of the Town Council.

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

3-16-2t_30

NOTICE.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, held on the 4th day of March, 1912:

Whereas, it is in the interest of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that a concrete sidewalk be constructed on both sides of Hinrichs place, its entire length, in said Town of Bloomfield, hereinafter more particularly described.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that it is in the interest of said town to have a concrete sidewalk constructed on both sides of Hinrichs place, its entire length in said Town of Bloomfield.

Beginning at the southerly curb line of Myrtle street, thence in a southeasterly direction through Hinrichs place, seven hundred and eighty (780) feet, more or less, to the northerly curb line of Dodd street and ending there.

The above described concrete sidewalk to be constructed on both sides of Hinrichs place.

Notice is hereby given that objections in writing to the above resolution or to the said proposed improvement shall be filed with the Town Clerk on or before Monday, April 1, 1912, on which date the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield will meet at 8 o'clock P. M. in the Council Chamber, National Bank Building, Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, to consider any such objections that may be filed as aforesaid.

By order of the Town Council.

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

3-16-2t_30

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Assessment have filed with the Town Clerk their official final reports, maps and assessments of the whole costs and expenses in the matters of the following improvements, and the same are now open to the inspection of those in interest:

Ashland avenue, blue-stone walk (east side.)
Oak street, sewer.
Bloomfield avenue, concrete walk and curb.
James street, sidewalk and curb (south side).
Clearfield avenue, concrete walk, curb and gutter.

Notice is also given that the Bloomfield Town Council at a regular meeting held March 4, 1912, did fix and determine Monday evening, April 1st., 1912, at eight o'clock, at the Bloomfield Council Chamber, National Bank Building, Bloomfield, as the time and place when and where said Council will meet to consider any objections which may be filed in writing to the aforesaid reports, maps and assessments.

By order of the Town Council.

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

3-16-2t_30

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Assessment have filed with the Town Clerk their official final reports, maps and assessments of the whole costs and expenses in the matters of the following improvements, and the same are now open to the inspection of those in interest:

Laying out, opening, straightening, extending and widening of East Passaic avenue.

Laying out, opening, straightening, extending and widening of Willow street (extension).

Notice is also given that the Bloomfield Town Council at a regular meeting held March 4, 1912, did fix and determine Monday evening, April 1st, 1912, at eight o'clock, at the Bloomfield Council Chamber, National Bank Building, Bloomfield, as the time and place when and where said Council will meet to consider any objections which may be filed in writing to the aforesaid reports, maps and assessments.

By order of the Town Council.

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

3-16-2t_30

KILL THE COUGH AND CURE THE LUNGS

WITH DR. KING'S NEW DISCOVERY

FOR COUGHS COLDS — PRICE 50¢ & $1.00 TRIAL BOTTLE FREE

AND ALL THROAT AND LUNG TROUBLES

GUARANTEED SATISFACTORY OR MONEY REFUNDED.

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD.

Proposals for Broken Stone.

Sealed proposals will be received by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield at the office of the Town Clerk of said town, on Monday, March 4, 1912, at 5 o'clock P. M., for the furnishing of 2,000 tons, more or less, of broken stone, the same to be Orange Mountain trap rock, or stone of equal quality, and different sizes, delivered at such points in the town as may be designated by the Road Committee.

Each proposal must state the price per ton of 2,240 pounds.

Each load of stone delivered must be accompanied with a weigher's certificate.

All proposals must be sealed and indorsed "Proposals for Furnishing Broken Stone," and addressed to Raymond F. Davis, Town Clerk.

Each bid must be also accompanied with a certified check for one hundred dollars ($100) drawn to the order of the Town of Bloomfield, as a guarantee of good faith of the bidder.

The Town Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

By order of the Town Council.

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

NOTICE.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, held on the 19th day of February, 1912:

Whereas, it is in the interest of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that a concrete curb be constructed on both sides of Glenwood avenue and an improved granite block pavement upon a 6-inch concrete foundation, the entire width of the roadway of Glenwood avenue, between the southwesterly side of Bloomfield avenue and the northerly side of Linden avenue in said town of Bloomfield, hereinafter more particularly described.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that it is in the interest of said town to have a concrete curb and an improved granite block pavement constructed in the roadway of said Glenwood avenue, between Bloomfield and Linden avenues.

Beginning in Glenwood avenue at the southwesterly side of Bloomfield avenue, thence running along Glenwood avenue in a southwesterly direction fourteen hundred and eighty-five (1485) feet, more or less, to the northerly side of Linden avenue and ending there.

Notice is hereby given that objections in writing to the above resolution or to the said proposed improvement shall be filed with the Town Clerk on or before Monday, March 18, 1912, on which date the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield will meet at 8 o'clock P. M. in the Council Chamber, National Bank Building, Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, to consider any such objections that may be filed as aforesaid.

By order of the Town Council.

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

ORDINANCE.

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING SALARIES OF TOWN OFFICERS OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD.

The Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex do ordain as follows:

Section 1. The annual salaries and compensations of the Town Officers herein named shall be respectively as follows, for the ensuing year:

Town Collector	$1,900 00
Town Clerk	1,400 00
Town Attorney	600 00
Town Physician	200 00
Chief of Fire Department	200 00
Overseer of the Poor	600 00
Town Treasurer	500 00
Superintendent of Public Works	1,000 00
Recorder	400 00
Town Engineer	1,800 00
Superintendent of Water	1,200 00
Each Town Councilman	300 00
Chief of Police	1,000 00
Sergeant of Police	900 00
Roundsman	900 00
Each Regular Policeman, appointed to Police Force	900 00
Each Member of the Board of Assessors	500 00

Provided, however, that the Clerk of the Board of Assessors shall receive the sum of $200 per annum in addition to his salary as member of said Board.

Ordinance adopted February 19, 1912.

Mayor of the Town of Bloomfield.

Attest:

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Assessment have filed with the Town Clerk their official preliminary reports, maps and assessments of the whole costs and expenses in the matter of the following improvements, and the same are now open to the inspection of those in interest:

Laying out, opening, straightening, extending and widening of Hoffman boulevard.

Notice is also given that the Bloomfield Town Council at a regular meeting held February 5th, 1912, did fix, and determine Monday evening, March 4th, 1912, at eight o'clock, at the Bloomfield Council Chamber, National Bank Building, Bloomfield, as the time and place when and where said Council will meet to consider any objections which may be filed in writing to the aforesaid reports, maps and assessments.

By order of the Town Council

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

NOTICE.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, held on the 5th day of February, 1912:

Whereas, it is in the interest of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that a concrete curb and concrete sidewalk be constructed on both sides of Cottage place hereinafter more particularly described.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that it is in the interest of said town to have a concrete curb and an improved granite block pavement constructed in the roadway of said Glenwood avenue, between Bloomfield and Linden avenues.

Beginning in Cottage place at the easterly curb line of Spring street, thence running along Cottage place in an easterly direction three hundred and twenty five (325) feet, more or less, and ending there.

The above described curb and sidewalk to be constructed on both sides of Cottage place.

Notice is hereby given that objections in writing to the above resolution or to the said proposed improvement shall be filed with the Town Clerk on or before Monday, March 4, 1912, on which date the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield will meet at 8 o'clock P. M. in the Council Chamber, National Bank Building, Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, to consider any such objections that may be filed as aforesaid.

By order of the Town Council.

RAYMOND F. DAVIS,
Town Clerk.

November 18, 1911.

ESTATE OF CYRUS PARSONS, deceased.

Pursuant to the order of ISAAC SHOENTHAL, Surrogate of the County of Essex, this day made, on the application of the undersigned, executrix of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit to the subscriber under oath or affirmation, their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased, within nine months from this date, or they will be forever barred from prosecuting or recovering the same against the subscriber.

JEANNETTE ACKERMAN.

Barrett and Barrett, Proctors.

NOTHING ON THE FARM PAYS SO WELL AS HENS.

Improve your flock by introducing new, strong, vigorous blood from a pure, heavy-laying strain of White Leghorns.

Eggs for setting. Select matings, $2.00 per 15; $10.00 per 100. Utility stock, $1.00 per 15; $5.00 per 100.

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Box 100, or, Orangeburg, N. Y.

REFERENCES: Hon. E. W. Watkins, Demarest, N. J.; Hon. W. H. Edwards, Commissioner Street Cleaning Dept., N. Y. City; Chester National Bank, Chester, N. Y.; Security Bank, 66th St. and 3d Ave., N. Y. City.